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Enclosure No. 2 for Dispatch No. 110-CWGFC dated 21 February 1951

BACKGROUND QUESTIONNAIRE

1. KURGVEL, Aleksel
2. "Alexander Kurbel" in July-August 1940 in Karlsbad, Sudetenland;  
"Fusel" during 1941-1944 as Finnish Captain with the German military  
broadcasting service, especially in contacts with Russian  
volunteers.
3. Kuressaare, Estonia, 13 September 1904
4. Estonian
5. Unchanged. "Alexander Kurbel" and also "Kurgvel" until 1941 have, for  
purposes of cover at the order of the German military broadcasting  
service, accepted Reichsdeutsche Reisepässe (German Travel Documents).  
I had refused three times to accept the offer of German citizenship and  
never once accepted.
6. (Zia) Wentorf, U. S. Resettlement Center, Bl. 3/28.
7. Same
8. Male - 174 cm. - about 70 kg. - gray blue - dark blond - fair -  
none - slim - none
9. Married - 25 October 1928 - Nava, Estonia - Salme Kurgvel - nee  
Epler - living - Narva, Estonia, 12 January 1909 - Estonian.
10. Male - Jaan - son - Estonian - 20 yrs. old - Stipendium at Agric.  
College - Glensson, S. G., U. S. A.  
Male - Rein - son - Estonian - 12 yrs. old - complete
11. Ministerialschule - Kuressaare - elementary - 1912/1915  
Gymnasium - Kuressaare - gymnasium - 1915/1925 - finished  
Military school - Tallinn - officer cand. - 1923/1926 - in Technical  
Troops (Specialty--Radio)  
Military Academy - Tallinn - Gen. Staff Service - 1927-1931/32  
Diploma - Off. of Gen. Staff.  
University - Tartu - Political Economy - entered 1943 - did not proceed far.
12. Employed by IRO - U. S. Documentation Office, Wentorf; register (logs)  
outgoing mail (99% English and 1% German correspondence) since Oct.  
1949. Income is about 320 DM net. Corresponding T. O. A. F. addition  
for languages.

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13. Professional officer, see p. 26. In addition: Oct. 1940-June 1941—scientific analyzer at I. G. Farben, Berlin—analyses of information of information about Russian economy. Income about 500 Reichsmark corresponding to my Estonian rank in service.  
Oct. 1946-Sept. 1949—Chief clerk and interpreter at DP Camp "Oxford" in DRAGARN, Kreis Dannenberg, "Kungla" in Stolzenau, and "Essex" in Lingen. All in British zone; income about DM 340-300.
14. Until July 1940 in Tallinn, Estonia. July 1940-June 1941, in Berlin (see Addenda); June 1941-Aug. 1946, see p. 26;  
Aug. 1946-Sept 1947 "Oxford" Camp, Kr. Dannenberg;  
Sep. 1947-Oct. 1948 "Kungla" Camp in Stolzenau;  
Oct. 1948-Sept. 1949 "Essex" Camp in Lingen.  
From 15 Sept. 1949 Wentorf US Resettlement Center
15. a. Est. Col. Richard Hasing, until 1949 I Aide to Est. Gen. Staff chief. Now in Stockholm, Rindögatan 5; knows me since 1928/29.  
b. Est. Col. Willem Saarsen, Chief of II Section of Est. Gen. Staff. Now in Sweden, Stockholm - Alva 38, Glimmerstadvägen 23, c/o A. Jerum.  
c. Colonel William E. Shipp, U. S. Milit. (or Army) Attache in Madrid—has known me since 1934 when he was Mil. Attache in Baltic countries.  
d. The one-time Finnish Col. Hallamaa, chief of military broadcasting service of Finn. Gen. Staff until 1944. Address unknown. Has known me since 1940.  
e. The one-time Germ. Frigate-Captain Alexander Cellarius, my helper on my flight from Estonia and my German chief during the war. Has known me since 1937/38. Lives at Woldsenweg 12, Hamburg 77.
16. a. Mr. Drexel W. Gibson, US DP Commission, Wentorf, has known me since Oct. 1949 in connection with my emigration application.  
b. Est. Capt. Edward Ausmees, Block leader in Wentorf Camp. Has known me since 1923; we were together in military school.  
c. Est. Dr. Endel Sepp; works as a Dr. with IRO in Wentorf. Has known me since 1949/50. Address of these two named:  
(2ha) Wentorf, Lager, Villa D-3
17. No property except my parents' house in Kuressaare, Estonia.
18. Estonian - native tongue -  
Russian - good - good - good  
German " " "  
English - fair - fair - fair  
Finnish - slight - slight - slight  
Polish " " "
19. No.

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20. Deutsches Personal Ausweis - AQ 111053 - Date not given--  
Wentorf Gemeinde  
Temporary Est. Auslandspass - - Estonische Gesandtschaft,  
London, 1948, extended 1950  
Est. Internal Identity Papers - - Polizeiverwaltung  
Harva 1926 or 1927  
Est. Mil. ID Papers - 375 - 19 June 1937, II Section of  
Gen. Staff in Tallinn
21. Johann (Ivan) Kurgvel - died 1926 - Kuressaare, Estonia - 14.2.1871,  
Gemeinde HAASI, Estonia - Estonian.
22. Maria Kurgvel, nee Toompu - died 1945 - Kuressaare, Estonia - 29.7.1868,  
Gemeinde Leisi, Estonia - Estonian.
23. Olga Kurgvel - 51 - sister - Remained in Kuressaare in 1944 - Estonian -  
laborer  
Ksenia Kurgvel - 50 - sister - Letterivägen 3/I, Hagersten, Sweden -  
Estonian - Teacher in gymnasium, now laborer.  
Lootus Maripuu - 43 - sister - Fagerudd, Enköpings, Sweden - Elem. school  
teacher, now factory worker.
24. None.
25. Member of the Ecclesiastical (Ovidentlichen) Estonian Evangelical  
Lutheran Church.
26. See Addenda
27. June/July 1937 - Round trip from Estonia across Germany, Switzerland,  
to France and back via Belgium; 7 days in Paris, 2 days in  
Berlin; furlough trip with my wife, and 30 other tourists in  
omnibus.
28. Yes. To U. S. A. - through Consul General Wentorf, EC No. 82219.
29. a. Typing, document photography, photography, driver (as much as is  
required of an Est. Gen. Staff officer). *Radio?*  
b. No publications outside of a few essays in an Estonian military  
publication "SODUR" (The Soldier) in 1928/29, about the  
tests of the Signal Corps and military analyses.  
c. None

Munich 19.2.51

signed / A. Kurgvel /

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ADDENDA (Kurgvel)

To pages 2 and 11:

Under this assumed name I was sent to Karlsbad in order to prevent the Russian agents and especially the Russian Military Attache Colonel TSUKANOFF from learning of my flight from Estonia to Germany. Col. TSUKANOFF knew me well from the time when he was the Russian Mil. Attache in Estonia.

To page 5:

The German military broadcasting service, which helped me in July 1940 to flee from Estonia, from the Communist Pincers of Destructions, asked me on three occasions to assume German citizenship and to enter the German army. I refused to either but was prepared to cooperate as an Estonian officer to work against the Communists. After I returned from Karlsbad I was asked to accept a German Travel Document as a cover since it was impossible otherwise to find employment. I was offered employment in the Russian section of the IG Farben but there only true Germans could work! Since I was assured that this Travel Document was only for purposes of cover, without involving loss of my citizenship, I accepted the Document.

To page 26 (Military Service)

In the Estonian Army:

Aug. 1923	Entered the War School in Tallinn
Feb. 1926	Lt. in Signal Corps Bn. in Tallinn - later in Tartu and Narva
May 1929-1931/2	War Academy in Tallinn
1931/1932-1934	In the Operations Section of the General Staff and in the Staff of the 1st Inf. Bde.
Jan. 1934-July 1940	In Foreign Information Section of the General Staff - Chief of Section "A".
24 June 1940	Communist proposal: I should report on my comrades at work as well as the foreign military attaches. I refused categorically.
3 July 1940	The Russians ordered my transfer from the II Section. I fled with the knowledge of my chief, with the help of the Germans, which was the only available help then.
June 1941	In agreement with the Finnish General Staff I left Germany for Finland and took part in the liberation of Estonia as a Finnish volunteer - captain in the German military broadcasting service. Before that while at IG Farben I helped recruit Estonian volunteers in Germany for the occupation in Estonia.

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Sept. 1941- Aug. 1944 As a Finnish captain in the German military broadcasting service in Estonia. My activity as in Finland earlier was the training of Estonian, later also Russian, volunteers in radio and cipher, and the direction of the radio contact with the agents in the field.

Aug. 1944 I left the Finnish army as advised by the Finns and was mobilized in Estonia by the Germans.

Aug.-Sept. 1944 As Estonian Liaison officer with the German Army - "Harva" Section, as well as in P. O. K XVIII (Armees Ober Kommando)

Oct. 1944-May 1945 After the retreat from Estonia, I was with the German reconnaissance troop 166 (Marine). My assignment was the same as earlier in Finland and Estonia, to prepare and build up, as well as lead, the occupation troops to Estonia.

These Estonian volunteers were recruited and trained by me with the thought in mind that after ~~the~~ the expected fall of Germany they were to be put with the permission of Estonia at the disposal of the Western allies for further cooperation since we did not believe in a long period of peace and harmony between the west and the communists. For this reason on 20 April, 1944, I equipped all of the dispatched 5 groups with radio and cipher codes which were known only to me and one man in each group. In order to make contact with the American troops who were in front of me, I sent two of my radio men at the end of March over the Elbe into the area where the Americans were advancing. This attempt failed, even though as I later learned they gave themselves up to the Americans (on April 1, 1944) the radio contact with me was lost.

4.5.1944

I came across the front lines and reported at the first allied elements I met - a British one. I reported my capable officers. Result: I was arrested and a couple of days later my hq. radio position was taken prisoner.

May 1945-Aug. 1946 I was in British arrest in their interrogation detention in Hamburg, Penal Camp Altona, in a prison camp near Hamburg (name forgotten), in the jail at Neumünster, civil internment camp Neumünster and a long time in prison of the secret service in Bad Wendorf. From there I was taken in April 1946 and I was supposed to begin what I had done in 1944. Because of political considerations this would have been impossible.

My highest rank: Captain, promoted there February 1934. I had worked all the time on the East Front. Decorations: Est. Eagle Cross IV Class, and 10 other various foreign decorations earned in the long years of my foreign service in the Foreign section of the Est. Gen. Staff.

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TO para. 27:

The contact broken in 1946 was warmed up by the English Feb. 1950 and I was invited to London. I stayed there a week.

Before my journey I had confidentially informed Mr. Gibson, in Wentorf,

I was asked to collect as much information as I could in Germany about Estonia in order that they might be used in an eventual occupation of Estonia later.

I did what was the only possible thing I could do - I could do very little else to protect myself.

This contact finally died out also.

I believe that I will not conflict with any rules of propriety with this report:

I have never worked for money or any other personal reasons. I have done this and am ready to do it again because as an Estonian officer I find it my duty to do so, to help my Fatherland as I can.

I believe that I can do this best if I work with a Power that really understands the situation and has the might and will to begin this struggle and carry it through.

I do not want to hurt the British with this report and I believe that this writing will reach only select hands. This writing should show you with whom I am in contact, in order that you have plenty of time to decide whether you can and want to work with such a man.

I have lived through many disappointments in my work, men's lives have been offered in vain therapy. I would not like to have this repeat itself again.

Finally, I am an Estonian soldier, I want to help my people and my Fatherland. That I can do best if I am permitted to work with you. It is for this reason that I am ready to work for you, it would be an honor to me.

signed / A. Kurgvel /

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